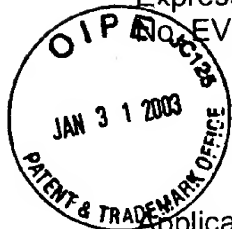


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Keith Hall et al.  
Serial No. 09/817,821  
Filed March 26, 2001  
Confirmation No. 7846

Art Unit 1639

For COMBINATORIAL SYNTHESIS AND ANALYSIS OF METAL-LIGANDS  
COMPOSITIONS USING SOLUBLE METAL PRECURSORS

Examiner My-Chau T. Tran

January 31, 2003

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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND  
ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENTS**

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

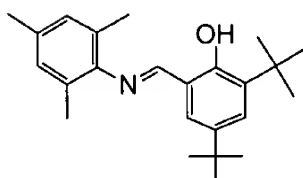
In response to the Office action of December 2, 2002, wherein a Restriction was required under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 as between two (2) groups of claims, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I (i.e., claims 1-72), and to cancel the claims of Group II (i.e., claims 73-89) without prejudice. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims during the pendency of this application.

Furthermore, in response to the Election of Species requirement, Applicants hereby elect the following for initial examination:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Species 1 (claim 6):           | A soluble metal precursor having the formula $MR_n$ , wherein M is Hf, R is $(CH_2Ph)$ and n is 4, the elected species thus having the formula $Hf(CH_2Ph)_4$ . |
| Species 2 (claims 16, 18, 19): | A coordination number of 2 for the metal-binding ligand.  |

Species 3 (claims 17, 19): A charge of -1 for the metal-binding ligand.

Species 4 (claim 21): A metal-binding ligand having the formula:



(2,-1)

Species 5 (claims 48, 49, 52): An activator having the formula  $\text{PhNMe}_2\text{HB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$ .

Species 6 (claim 56): The property of interest to be screened for is a chemical property.

Species 7 (claim 57): Gravimetric measurement of the product yield is the method to be used to screen the reaction product for a property of interest.

Species 8 (claim 58): The elected number of ligands in the array is at least 8.

Species 9 (claim 71): The deprotonating agent to be used is BuLi.

Accordingly, claims reading on the elected species include 1-6, 9-19, 21, 22, 40, 41, 47-49, 52, 54-58 and 69-72.

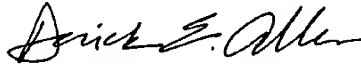
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A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed, please charge any additional fees required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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DEA/dep